



## COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY & FINANCING

---

1570 Grant Street, Denver, CO 80203-1818 • (303) 866-2993 • (303) 866-4411 Fax • (303) 866-3883 TTY

Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor • Joan Henneberry, Executive Director

**DATE:** Week Ending Friday, March 6, 2009

**TO:** Department of Health Care Policy and Financing Community

**FROM:** Ginny Brown, Legislative Liaison and Nicole Storm, Legislative Analyst

**RE:** Legislative Report – 2009 Session of the Colorado General Assembly

**Modify Colorado Cares Rx**, SB09-132, Senator Boyd and Representative Kerr, was heard before Senate HHS Committee on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, however no action will be taken until next week after the Department and bill sponsors have had an opportunity to vet an amendment offered by independent pharmacies. As the bill reads in its current form, it modifies the Colorado Cares Rx program and requires the Department to make information available to the public regarding the availability of lower-cost generic or discounted prescription drug programs.

HB09-1278, Representative Frangas, **Concerning Care for Vulnerable Populations**, is an omnibus bill aimed at increasing CHP+ eligibility to 250% of federal poverty level; creating a Medicare state navigator subject to gifts, grants, and donations; provides Medicaid coverage for the involuntarily unemployed; and reimburses clients for attorney's fees when they have successful appeals, among a number of other measures. The bill was heard before the House Health and Human Services Committee on Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, and a number of amendments were offered. The bill was postponed indefinitely.

On Friday March 6, the Department held a Legislative Lunch & Learn presentation to provide legislators with a broad picture of the inner-workings of the Department and to provide an opportunity to ask questions of our staff. Director Henneberry, Dr Sandeep Wadhwa, John Bartholomew, Jennifer Evans, Sue Williamson, and Nancy Downes all gave brief presentations on current programs and projects. The Department will continue to offer such informal lunch sessions in the coming months.

Also on Friday, HB09-1164, Representative Primavera and Senator Kester, **Surcharge on Breast Cancer Awareness Special License Plates**, establishes a twenty five dollar surcharge for the purchase or renewal of breast cancer awareness license plates and expands Medicaid eligibility under the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment program (BCCP) to individuals who have been screened by a provider who does not receive funds through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. The bill passed out of committee and now moved to the Committee of the Whole with a favorable recommendation.

For more information about legislative activities please contact Ginny Brown 303-866-3972 or Nicole Storm 303-866-3180 or access [www.colorado.gov](http://www.colorado.gov) to search the General Assembly Web site. A legislative report will be updated weekly on our Web site [www.colorado.gov/hcpf](http://www.colorado.gov/hcpf) under Research and Partners, Legislative Information, Legislative Update.